

# Use of Pesticides

1985

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A Safety Support Pamphlet

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**SAFETY BRIEFINGS FOR PERSONNEL AND  
SUPERVISORS ENGAGED IN THE USE OF PESTICIDES**

**A SAFETY SUPPORT KIT**

## Industrial Safety Fact Sheet

SUBJECT: Accident Prevention While Using Pesticides

1. The National Safety Council estimates that the value of goods and services each worker must produce to offset the cost of work injuries is \$350. In 1985, work injuries in the United States cost \$37.3 billion. According to the National Health Interview Survey more than 13 percent of all accidents occurred in industrial places. This equates to approximately 9 million injuries per year.
2. Injuries, death, and disability are the results of accidents. Costs combined with worker pain, disability, and loss of life emphasize the importance of accident prevention on all levels of industrial operations.
3. Pesticides can be particularly dangerous due to the highly toxic nature of most chemicals in use today. Unless the necessary training is conducted and the proper guidelines are used, workers can be seriously injured.
4. Proper training, use of technical manuals, compliance with safety and OSHA requirements, teamwork, and individual awareness are necessary to minimize unnecessary disabling injuries or death.
5. Good judgment and proper supervision are instrumental in accident prevention. Incidents of burns, loss of vision and hearing, and death can be avoided by controlling hazardous conditions, educating workers, and by following established guidelines. No one can prevent accidents like you can!

TAILGATE SESSIONS FOR SUPERVISORS AND PERSONNEL  
ENGAGED IN PESTICIDE OPERATIONS

## Tailgate Sessions

### Short Safety Briefing for Operators and Supervisors

What is a tailgate session? Tailgate sessions got their name from employees sitting on the tailgate of a truck while receiving a short safety briefing for an upcoming job.

The use of this type training for maintenance personnel has obvious advantages:

- It shows safe performance is one of the work standards.
- It allows sharing of safety information about upcoming jobs.
- It can be done with minimal planning during nonpeak work hours.
- It shows supervisory support of safe activities.
- It can be keyed to specific individuals or work groups without requiring entire unit participation.
- It lends authenticity to the safety program by keying on the job at hand and therefore avoids generalization.
- It raises safety awareness level of personnel.

### Implementation

- Identify topics that are pertinent to the unit's maintenance activities.
- Develop hip-pocket tailgate sessions on selected topics.
- Distribute tailgate sessions to supervisors and discuss when and where they are to be used (sessions are included in this kit).
- Have individuals from the command group or element occasionally conduct tailgate sessions to reiterate and reinforce their concern for safety.
- Continually revise and update the tailgate sessions to ensure applicability.

## STORAGE OF PESTICIDES

The uncontrolled release of pesticides would cause an adverse effect on the environment. Pesticides, excess pesticides, and their containers, therefore, should be stored only in facilities where due regard has been given to the hazardous nature of the pesticide.

These storage procedures should be observed at sites and facilities where pesticides are classified as highly toxic or moderately toxic. Containers are required to bear the words "DANGER," "POISON," or "WARNING" or the skull and crossbones symbol on the label.

These procedures are not necessary at facilities where most pesticides are registered for use in the home or garden, or where pesticides classed as slightly toxic (word "CAUTION" on the label) are stored.

According to AR 420-76, pesticides will be mixed and stored only in facilities where due regard has been given to the hazardous nature of the pesticide, site selection, protective enclosures, and operating procedures, and where adequate measures have been taken to assure personnel safety, accident prevention, and detection of potential environmental damages.

Pesticide containers will be stored in well-ventilated, dry storage areas and will be protected from freezing temperatures and direct sunlight.

All containers will be stored off the ground with labels plainly visible to permit ready access and inspection.

Rigid containers will be stored upright.

Herbicides and insecticides must be stored separately, maintaining sufficiently safe segregation. This will be done with the use of 4-foot aisles in order to avoid cross-contamination or adverse reactions.

Stored pesticides will be inspected monthly to determine the condition of the container.

Leaking containers will be recontainerized and overpacked in approved containers that meet Department of Transportation (DOT) specifications.

Materials such as adsorptive clay, hydrated lime, and sodium hypochlorite should be kept on hand for use in emergency detoxification of spills or leaks (see list of pesticide contaminates on page \_\_\_\_).

### Storage Sites

Most pesticide spills occur in areas such as loading docks, mixing areas, and storage sites. According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (40 CFR 165.10) storage sites should be selected with regard to the amount, toxicity, and environmental hazard of the pesticide. The number and size of containers should also be looked at. The following is a brief outline. For full details of site selection and container requirements see 40 CFR 165.10, 29 CFR 1910.106, and AR 420-76.

When possible, sites should be located where flooding is unlikely and where soil texture/structure and geologic/hydrologic characteristics will prevent the contamination of any water system by runoff or percolation.

Where warranted, drainage from the site should be contained (by natural or artificial barriers or dikes), monitored, and if contaminated, disposed of as an excess pesticide (see pgs 7 and 14).

Consideration should also be given to containing windblown pesticide dusts or particles.

#### Storage Facilities

As mentioned earlier, pesticides should be stored in a dry, well-ventilated, separate room, building, or covered area where fire protection is provided. When it is relevant and practicable the following precautions should be taken:

- . The entire storage facility should be secured by a climb-proof fence and doors and gates should be kept locked to prevent unauthorized entry.
- . Identification signs should be placed on rooms, buildings, and fences to advise of the contents and warn of their hazardous nature.
- . All items of movable equipment used for handling pesticides at the storage site and which might be used for other purposes should be labeled "contaminated with pesticides" and should not be removed from the site unless thoroughly decontaminated.
- . Provisions should be made for decontamination of personnel and equipment such as delivery trucks, tarpaulin covers, and so forth.
- . Where feasible, a washbasin and shower with a delayed-closing pull chain valve should be provided.
- . All contaminated water should be disposed of as an excess pesticide.

For further information on storage of pesticides see DOD Technical Information Memorandums 16 and 21. These TIMs can be obtained through the DOD Pesticide Hotline, AUTOVON 584-3773.

#### SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

In addition to the precautions specified on the label, the following accident prevention measures should be conducted.

- . Inspect all containers of pesticides for leaks before handling them.
- . Do not mishandle containers and thereby create emergencies by carelessness.
- . Do not permit unauthorized persons in storage areas.
- . Do not store pesticides next to food or feed or other articles intended for consumption by humans or animals.
- . Inspect all vehicles prior to departure and treat those found to be contaminated.
- . REMEMBER, the best and most complete information is usually on the label, so, ALWAYS READ THE LABEL.

## PESTICIDE SPILLS

Pesticide spill kits containing items suitable for the containment and cleanup of pesticide spills will be assembled and placed strategically where pesticides are mixed or stored. A spill kit will also be placed on each vehicle that transports pesticides.

Following a major pesticide spill--

- Immediate action will be taken to contain the spill.
- It will be reported in accordance with the installation's national oil and hazardous substance pollution contingency plan or other reporting requirements.

Information and assistance regarding pesticide containment and cleanup can be obtained by calling the USAEHA Hazardous Substances Spill Response Team during duty hours at (301) 671-3816 or AUTOVON 584-3816 and during nonduty hours at (301) 671-4375 or AUTOVON 584-4375.

## SAFETY MEASURES

- . Do not store food, beverages, tobacco, eating utensils, or smoking equipment in the storage or loading areas.
- . Do not drink, eat, smoke, or use tobacco in areas where pesticides are present.
- . Do not put fingers in mouth or rub eyes while working.
- . Wash hands before eating, smoking, or using toilet and immediately after loading or transferring pesticides.
- . When handling pesticides in concentrated form, protective clothing should be worn. This consists of rubber gloves and boots, full-length coveralls that fasten at neck and extend over gloves and boots, a rubber apron when mixing chemicals, approved masks or respirators and a face shield.
- . Certain pesticides can easily be absorbed through the skin or by the inhalation of fumes and particular care should be taken when handling them. Respirators or masks with proper canisters approved for the particular type of exposure noted in the label directions should be used.
- . Pesticide contaminated protective clothing will not be home-laundered. Severely contaminated clothing will not be laundered but will be treated as a pesticide-related waste and disposed of in accordance with current regulatory requirements.
- . No pesticide or pesticide containers should be left where children or pets have access to them.
- . Installation pest management activities should have vehicles with lockable storage areas and separate cabs to be used for the safe transport of personnel, pesticides, equipment, and supplies for control operations. AT NO TIME SHOULD ANY PESTICIDE BE TRANSPORTED IN THE CAB OF THE VEHICLE.
- . ALWAYS READ LABEL CAREFULLY before using ANY type of pesticide.
- . Persons working regularly with organophosphate and N-alkyl carbamate pesticides should have periodic physical examinations, including cholinesterase tests.

## PESTICIDE DISPOSAL

According to AR 420-76, every effort will be made to use serviceable pesticides locally for the purpose originally intended.

No pesticide, pesticide container, or pesticide container residue will be disposed of in a manner inconsistent with its label or labeling in a way to cause or allow--

- Open dumping.

- Open burning.

- Water or ocean dumping except in conformance with appropriate Federal regulations.

- Direct exposure which may result in contamination of food or feed supplies.

- Violation of any applicable Federal, State, or local pollution control standard.

An installation will not store or turn in any pesticide or pesticide-related waste generated by the civilian community (AR 420-76, para 4-2a(3)).

Pesticides for turn-in will be in properly labeled containers that are nonleaking and can withstand normal handling. This material will then be turned in to the local Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (DRMO).

#### RINSING OF PESTICIDE CONTAINERS

Empty pesticide containers containing small amounts (1 inch or less) of liquid pesticide will be drained for 1 minute into the spray or mix tank. The containers will then be rinsed three times using a volume of appropriate diluent equal to approximately 10 percent of the container capacity each time. The rinse liquid will be used as a diluent for future pesticide use or will be stored and disposed of in accordance with Federal, State, or local requirements for handling a pesticide-related waste.

For further information on pesticide disposal see DOD Technical Information Memorandum 21. This TIM can be obtained through the DOD Pesticide Hotline, AUTOVON 584-7337.

## EXPOSURE

According to the Environmental Protection Agency regulations no one will be exposed to the application of a pesticide, either directly or by drift, except those knowingly involved in the application. No one will be permitted to re-enter the area until the sprays have dried or the dusts have settled unless a longer reentry time has been set or unless exempted from such a requirement.

Pesticides containing the following active ingredients have a reentry time of at least the interval indicated:

Ingredient	Hours
Ethyl parathion	48
Methyl parathion	48
Guthion	24
Demeton	48
Azodrin	48
Phosalone	24
Carbophenothion	48
Metasystox-R	48
EPN	24
Bidrin	48
Endrin	48
Ethion	24

ALWAYS READ LABEL ON PESTICIDE TO DETERMINE ANY HAZARDS ASSOCIATED WITH PESTICIDE USE.

List of Additional Tailgate Topics

Inspection of lifting devices IAW TB 43-0142

Submitting DA Form 2028 on TM

Submitting QDRs/EIRs on equipment and tools (DA Pams 738-750 and -751)

Unit SOP requirements (DA Pam 750-35)

Necessity for inspection of components

When and when not to improvise--approved methods

Using TMs--how to get, use, change (DA Pam 25-30)

Ground guides in and around motor pool, track park, and maintenance shop

Prejob checks

After-job checklists

First aid

Fire prevention

Safe fuel handling

## DEFINITIONS OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

### Pesticide

General term for chemicals used to control or kill such pests as rats, insects, fungi, bacteria, and weeds that prey on man or agricultural products. Among these are insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, rodenticides, fumigants, and repellants.

### Insecticides

Common term for chemicals used to control or kill insects. Such chemicals as \_\_\_\_\_ are found in this category.

### Herbicides

Common term for chemicals used to destroy or inhibit plant growth. Such chemicals as \_\_\_\_\_ are found in this category.

### Toxicity

The potential of any chemical to produce damage.

### Hazard

The probability that a given chemical will cause damage when used in a particular way or place. When estimating the hazard of a pesticide there are eight factors to be considered: (1) The acute oral and inhalation toxicity. (2) The effect on the skin, including possible absorption through the skin. (3) The cumulative effect on the body. (4) The concentration of toxicant handled in mixing or applying the chemical. (5) The amount of toxicant that must be applied to achieve control. (6) Frequency of application. (7) The conditions under which the chemical is applied and the degree of exposure to the residues. (8) The physical and chemical properties of the toxicant.

### Hazardous Material List

List published by the Department of Defense which lists toxic substances by name and the hazards associated with each.

## Spill Kit Contents

Proper handling of pesticide spills requires prior preparation of a spill kit containing directions for use in case a spill incident should occur. The kits should be labeled and designated for use in handling pesticide spills only and should be strategically placed where spills are most likely to occur. The label should list the contents and the kit should be sealed to discourage pilferage.

Spill kits may be assembled by procuring items through the Federal Supply System or from commercial sources. Additional suppliers may be obtained by contacting the EFD Applied Biologist or Command Entomologist.

The following is a list of equipment required for shop and vehicle spill kits:

### Shop Kit

- 1 55-gallon open-head drum
- 1 set of instructions
- 4 pairs of neoprene gloves
- 2 pairs of unvented goggles
- 2 respirators and pesticide cartridges
- 2 aprons (chemical resistant)
- 2 pairs rubber boots
- 2 pairs of 100-percent cotton coveralls
- 1 dustpan
- 1 shop brush
- 1 square-point "D" handle shovel
- 1 dozen polyethylene bags with ties (heavy ply)
- 1 18-inch push broom, synthetic fibers
- 1 gallon liquid detergent
- 3 gallons household bleach
- 80 pounds absorbent material
- 1 bung wrench
- 1 drum spigot
- 1 3/8-inch open-end wrench
- 1 drum pump (manual)
- 30 feet of 1/2-inch polyethylene tubing  
or
- 1 25-foot garden hose
- 1 bung 2 1/2 inches
- 1 bung 3/4 inches
- blank labels
- 1 first aid kit

### Vehicle Kits

- 1 instruction sheet
- 1 5-gallon open-head drum
- 2 pairs of neoprene gloves
- 1 pair of unvented goggles
- 1 respirator and cartridge
- 1 pair coveralls
- 1 dustpan
- 1 shop brush
- 10-30 pounds absorbent material
- 1 pint liquid detergent
- 6 polyethylene bags with ties (heavy ply)
- 1 portable eyewash
- blank labels
- 1 first aid kit
- 1 pair rubber boots
- 1 apron

Most equipment and materials needed for spill emergency response and for maintaining spill kits can be obtained through the GSA Federal Supply System or local manufacturing companies.

## Pesticide Contaminants

Depending on the particular pesticide, chlorine bleach, caustic soda (lye, sodium hydroxide) or lime can be used to effectively decontaminate most spills. Many pesticides, especially the organophosphate pesticides, decompose when treated with lye or lime. Fewer pesticides are decomposed by bleach (sodium hypochlorite). Other pesticides cannot be effectively decontaminated and should only be treated with detergent and water to assist in removal. Some examples of common pesticides that can be decontaminated are listed below:

<u>Use lye or lime</u>	<u>Use chlorine bleach</u>	<u>Do not use any decontamination chemicals for these pesticides</u>
Atrazine	Calcium cyanamide	Alachlor
Propoxur	Calcium cyanide	Chloramben
Captan	Chlorpyrifos	Chlordane and other
Carbaryl	Fonophos	Chlorinated hydrocarbons
Diazinon	Merphos	Diuron
Temephos	Lethane	2,4-D
Naled		Maneb
2,4,5,-T		Methoxchlor
Malathion		Pentachlorophenol
Acephate		Picloram
Sodium fluoride		Toxaphene
TCA		Trifluralin
Rotenone		
Silvex		
Cyanazine		
Dalapon		
Dichlorvos		
Dimethoate		
EPN		

A practical guide for applying decontaminants is as follows:

<u>Percent active ingredient</u>	<u>Amount of decontaminant needed</u>
1-10	Use an amount of decontaminant equal to the quantity of pesticide spilled.
11-79	Use an amount of decontaminant equal to 1.5 times the quantity of pesticide spilled.
80-100	The amount of decontaminant used should be equal to twice the quantity of spilled pesticide.

**WARNING:** There is a slight potential for creating toxic byproducts when using these procedures. In critical situations, samples of affected components (soil, sediment, water) should be sent to a laboratory for analysis in order to determine if decontamination was successful.

#### Lye or lime

Pesticides amenable to treatment using lye or lime may be decontaminated when mixed with an excess quantity of either of these materials. These materials can be used in either the dry form or in solution. A 10 percent solution of lye or lime can be made as follows: Mix 0.75 pounds of lye or lime in 3.5 quarts of water to make 1 gallon of 10-percent solution. CAUTION: Caustic soda (lye) can cause severe eye damage to persons not properly protected. Protect against contact by wearing unventilated goggles, long-sleeved work clothes with coveralls, neoprene gloves, and chemical-resistant apron. An approved respirator should also be worn. Do not use lye on aluminum surfaces.

#### Bleach treatment

Certain pesticides can be degraded by treatment with bleach (sodium hypochlorite). In general, 1 gallon of household bleach which contains approximately 5-percent sodium hypochlorite should be used per pound or gallon of pesticide spilled. If bleaching powder is used, first mix it with water (1 gallon of water per pound of bleach) and add a small amount of liquid detergent. For safety purposes a preliminary test must be run using small amounts of bleach and the spilled pesticide. The reaction resulting from this test must be observed to make sure reaction is not too vigorous. Do not store in close proximity to or mix chlorine bleach with amine-containing pesticides. Commingling of these materials can cause a violent reaction resulting in fire. Calcium hypochlorite is not recommended as a decontaminating agent because of the fire hazard.

### First Aid Procedures

In the event of pesticide contact perform basic first aid procedures and get medical attention immediately. If possible take labeled container.

The basic first aid procedures in the event of pesticide contact are:

- . If in the eye, flush with water for 15 minutes.
- . If on clothing, remove contaminated clothing and wash skin with soap and water.
- . Wash contaminated clothing with strong detergent before reusing.

The pesticide labels should be reviewed for any additional first aid procedures. Duplicate labels should be on file away from storage site.

The symptoms of pesticide poisoning include blurred vision, difficulty in breathing, severe running nose, nausea, drooling, tearing, unusual amount of sweating, stomach cramps, and trembling. Pesticide poisoning symptoms often resemble those for heat prostration, smoke inhalation, and the flu. In general, it should be emphasized that medical attention should be obtained if any feeling of discomfort or illness or unusual appearance occurs.

Remain alert to symptoms of pesticide poisoning because the symptoms may be delayed up to 12 hours after exposure.

### Safety Checklist for Pesticides

1. Do you know which of your pesticides, upon disposal, would be classified as RCRA hazardous waste?
2. Are you familiar with state and local constraints on pesticide disposal?
3. Have you developed a plan for pesticide disposal with your installation environmental coordinator?
4. Do you procure pesticides only for one year in advance?
5. Does your pesticide storage area meet FIFRA criteria as outlined in TIM 21 and TIM 17, "Pest Control Facilities"?
6. Do you attempt to mix only as much of a given formulation as you will need for one job or one day at the most?
7. Do you empty and rinse your application equipment before storing them overnight?
8. Do you check compatibilities before mixing chemicals?
9. If you have excess tank mix do you apply it on an appropriate site in accordance with the label?
10. If you have excess serviceable NSN pesticides do you either report them to the wholesale item manager or turn them in to the local DRMO?
11. Do you ensure that pesticides for turn-in are properly labeled and the containers are in good condition?
12. Do you mark repackaged pesticides for turn-in "For disposal only"?
13. Do you properly rinse each "empty" liquid container at least three times and dump the rinsings into the mixing tank?
14. Do you collect every container for proper disposal before leaving a job instead of leaving them in the field or at your tank filling station?
15. Do you puncture, break or crush small nonburnable containers so they can't be reused?
16. Do you return reusable 30- to 55-gallon pesticide drums to DRMO rather than giving them away for floats, trash barrels, and so forth?
17. Do you notify the Environmental Coordinator of any reportable pesticide spill?
18. Do you use compatible rinse liquids as diluents in new tank mixes?

19. If you have underground storage tanks has their continued use or removal been determined with the Environmental Coordinator?

20. Do you make every effort to minimize the production of pesticide waste rather than having to deal with disposal problems?

NAME OF OFFICE

STANDING OPERATING PROCEDURE NO. \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Safety

Handling, Storage, and Disposal of Pesticides

1. Purpose. To define responsibilities, prescribe procedures, and provide general guidance and instructions to personnel who are in charge of proper handling, storage, and disposal of all types of pesticides.
2. Scope. This procedure is applicable to all elements which are concerned with the safe handling, storage, and disposal of any type of pesticides.
3. Definitions.

- a. Pesticide: General term for chemicals used to control or kill such pests as rats, insects, fungi, bacteria, or weeds that prey on man or agricultural products. Among these are insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, rodenticides, fumigants, and repellants.
- b. Toxicity: The potential of a chemical to produce damage.
- c. Hazard: The probability that a given chemical will cause damage when used in a particular way or in a particular place.
- d. Hazardous waste: Any material which exhibits the characteristics of ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, and/or toxicity as identified in the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, Title 40-Protection of Environment, Part 261.2, or any material listed in Part 261.3 of that regulation.
- e. Ignitability: The potential of any chemical or material to burn.
- f. Corrosivity: The potential of any chemical to weaken or destroy material by corrosion.
- g. Reactivity: The potential of a substance to mix with another material.

4. Policy.

- a. All pesticides are toxic to man to some degree. To prevent accidental poisoning, illness, or death ONLY PERSONNEL TRAINED IN THE HAZARDS INVOLVED WITH USING PESTICIDES WILL BE AUTHORIZED TO HANDLE THESE MATERIALS.
- b. Most accidents involving pesticides result from the user ignoring or disregarding the precautions on the label. By law, pesticide manufacturers are required to include warning statements on the label. These labels include precautions to be used when handling the pesticide, antidotes in case of poisoning, first aid recommendations, and a statement as to the hazardous nature of the material. When these recommendations are not followed, serious illness or death can occur.

- c. All pest control management operations will be conducted in accordance with AR 420-76 and National, State, and local regulations.
- d. Pest control operations will be conducted with as little danger to the environment and personnel as possible. Contamination of the environment with pesticides which cause excessive residues, pollute the soil and water, or endanger wildlife is strictly against the State and National Pollution Abatement Policy.
- e. Many pesticides are flammable. Smoke from pesticide fires can be highly toxic. All possible precautions will be taken to minimize the risk of fire.

5. Responsibilities. See the current installation or division SOP for breakdown of responsibilities of pesticide management control operations.

6. Procedures. See FED SOP 385-1.

7. References.

AR 420-76  
FED SOP 385-1  
29 CFR 1910, Ch 17 (7-1-86 Edition)  
40 CFR 165 and 170, Ch 1 (7-1-86 Editions)

### Additional Information and Assistance

Should you have further questions, the following agencies are available to provide assistance.

#### General Assistance

- DOD Pesticide Hotline
  - Provides technical consultation and information
  - AUTOVON 584-3773

#### Pesticide Spill Prevention and Cleanup

- Army Environmental Hygiene Agency  
Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD
- National Agricultural Chemical Association Pesticide Safety Team Network (PSTN)
  - Provides advice and onsite assistance when spill situation warrants
- EPA Oil and Hazardous Material Technical Assistance Data System
  - Computerized information retrieval system that can provide information concerning more than 2,000 hazardous chemicals
- U.S. Coast Guard Chemical Hazardous Response Information System
  - Provides guidance for handling spills.